



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Pintar

Listen, learn

Staff Sgt. Russell Maxwell, 20th Maintenance Operations Squadron engine technician and instructor, explains the F-16CJ's engine to students from Daniels High School Air Force Junior ROTC, Greenville, S.C., March 18. Schools visit Shaw nearly every week and are shown many of the skills needed to perform the wing's mission.

Deployed members have a chance to boost pay

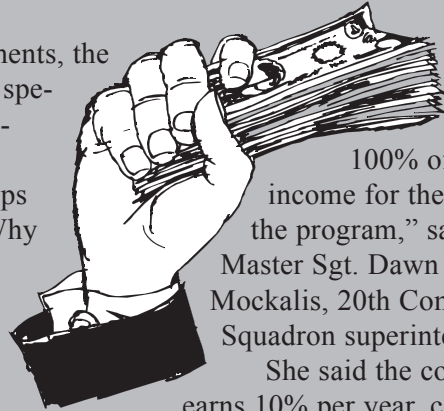
By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash
Staff writer

Members in war zones are separated from their families in an effort to further secure their freedoms and the freedoms of all Americans.

During some deployments, the military offers personnel special pay. From hazardous-duty pay to separation allowance, deployed troops may earn extra money. Why not make the most of the money earned and invest in the Savings Deposit Program?

The Savings Deposit Program is designed for members of the Armed Services serving outside the United States in support of contingency operations. Tech Sgt.

Lloyd Wright, 20th Comptroller Squadron relocations NCO in charge, said members deployed more than 30 days or more may qualify to take advantage of the beneficial program.



“In most cases, those eligible may contribute up to 100% of their income for the month into the program,” said Chief Master Sgt. Dawn Forbes-Mockalis, 20th Comptroller Squadron superintendent.

She said the contributor earns 10% per year, compounded quarterly.

“Interest will accrue from the first deposit of the first month of deployment,” said Sgt. Wright.

He said the money continues to earn interest for up to 90 days after the member departs the combat zone.

The Savings Deposit Program, formerly known as the United States Savings Deposit Program, began in the 1990s during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield and is still available to deployed troops today.

Before deploying, military members have a squadron checklist to complete.

Personal checklists are also accomplished, from having someone pick up the mail to maintaining the car. Somewhere between the squadron and personal checklists are the bank accounts and financial ties.

Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Mockalis, U.S. Central Command Air Forces

aircraft manager, took care of his finances during his deployment to Southwest Asia in 2003. The finance office at his deployed location informed him about the Savings Deposit Program and he was able to increase his earnings.

“It was very easy,” he said. “I just filled out the paperwork in 10 minutes and the people in finance knew what to do.”

He said it is better than the stock market.

“It’s pretty neat,” said Chief Mockalis. “Anytime you can make more money, it is good.”

“It’s a sure thing,” said his wife, Chief Forbes-Mockalis. “You know exactly what you put in and know what you are going to get out.”

For more information about the Savings Deposit Program, call Chief Forbes-Mockalis at **895-1544**.

March is National Craft Month

Future artists perfect work at CDC



Above, Isabella Linek, daughter of Senior Airmen Michael, 20th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Loraine Linek, 55th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, works on a craft project resembling stained glass at the Child Development Center Tuesday.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning



Above, Joshua Grimes, son of Senior Airmen Robert, 682nd Air Support Operations Squadron, and Angie Grimes, 609th Combat Operations Squadron, paints a watercolor picture.



Above, children at the CDC often create sculptures and designs using multi-colored molding clay.



Above, Marie Harris, 20th Services Squadron CDC program leader, helps children in her class make artwork such as pet rocks, sculptures and craft-stick creations.

Right, Zeniya Cooley, daughter of Richard and Army Sgt. Kim Davis, assigned to Fort Jackson, busily glues her craft-stick creation together.



Club Shaw programs benefit members

By Airman 1st Class Susan Penning
Editor

Members work hard to accomplish the mission on a daily basis. For many years, Air Force Clubs have been working hard as well to ensure members' time off can be especially rewarding.

According to Mr. Roger Jarrett, Club Shaw manager, club programs are provided as a benefit to military families. Some activities Club Shaw provides on a regular basis include: bingo nights, barbecues, live entertainment and activities throughout the year.

One popular event is the Football Frenzy, which is held annually. Participating members come to the club any Sunday during the NFL season to watch a game. They put their names in a hopper. The names of all participating bases are pooled and one lucky Air Force member and a guest win a trip to an NFL game. Master Sgt. Cedric Johnson, 20th Fighter Wing weapons safety chief, won this year's drawing.

"I've won four different prizes at the club. Being a member has always been beneficial to me," said Sgt. Johnson.

Sgt. Johnson took his son with him to the Tampa Bay versus Texas game and said it was an extra-spe-

cial time because his son is a Buccaneers fan.

Club membership can really pay off big, said Mr. Jarrett. In addition to great prizes like a free trip to an NFL game, the club offers ongoing benefits, such as discounts at many businesses in the local area as well as discounts to club events. The club also provides free social-hour snacks, entertainment, check cashing and more to its members.

According to Mr. Jarrett, in a recent effort to boost club membership and introduce new airmen to services and Air Force Clubs, a program called "UBU" has been established.

The "UBU" program, formerly known as the Gateway initiative, is a joint venture between the Air Force Services Agency and Headquarters Air Education and Training Command. Members in Basic Military Training are briefed on services and Air Force Club activities, and issued a "UBU" program card. Upon completion of technical school or reaching Phase IV of training, airmen can receive free club membership for approximately a year. Installations participating in the program include: Lackland, Sheppard, Keesler and Goodfellow Air Force Bases.

In conjunction with the "UBU" program, E-4s



Courtesy graphic

Sgt. Johnson and his son, Christian, pose for a picture during an NFL game.

and below who are at their permanent duty station can receive club membership at half-price for a year.

With all the benefits members can receive both on and off base, everyone eligible should take advantage, said Mr. Jarrett.

For more information on how to become a club member, stop by Club Shaw or call **895-1322**.

Help Shaw, Sumter communities at Thrift Shop

By Ms. Adriene M. Dicks
Correspondent

When it's time for families to PCS, many have items they no longer need or want. It's also the time of year when, during spring cleaning, people discover items they haven't used in a while but are still in great condition. The Thrift Shop wants those items for others who may be able to put them to good use.

The Shaw Thrift Shop is located in Building 1040 off Highway 441 on Blue Jay Street, across from Shaw's Polifka Gate.

According to Kelly Sanchez, one of three Thrift Shop co-managers, being off base is beneficial to the facility because they are able to accept dona-

tions from and help people in both the Shaw and Sumter communities. However, people who want to consign must have Department of Defense identification. Consigners receive 70% of their asking price and the other 30% goes toward Thrift Shop revenue.

The Thrift Shop accepts donations and consignments Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 5:30 to 7 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The facility is open for business Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Items can also be left in two donation bins outside the facility 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

There are items the Thrift Shop doesn't accept, including large ones like mattresses and large appliances like washers and dryers. Undergarments are also not accepted. Other items not accepted change from week to week. To find out what those items are, call **895-6280**.

All proceeds from the Thrift Shop go back into the Shaw and Sumter communities. Revenue goes to programs through the Family Support Center, including the Layette Program, Heart Link, Thanksgiving Baskets and the volunteer recognition program. Other programs on base receive money from the facility, including Operation True Giving and the Shaw branch of Habitat for Humanity. The Officers and Enlisted Spouses' Clubs also use money each year for scholarships. According to Vanessa Plair,

Thrift Shop co-manager, more than \$15,000 from the Thrift Shop went back into the community in 2003.

Mrs. Sanchez said being a part of the Thrift Shop doesn't mean you have to be able to devote hours at a time.

"Even volunteering 15 minutes makes a difference," said Mrs. Sanchez. "It depends on the time you have available, but any time spent volunteering is valuable. You will get a good feeling from giving to others and those who shop here appreciate it more than you know."

Mrs. Plair said volunteers keep the facility going.

"Volunteering time is priceless," said Mrs. Plair. "Volunteers are needed to get the job done and continue to provide a shopping environment with quality items at much lower prices."

There are three co-manager positions open at the Thrift Shop. Those interested in the positions can call and leave a message or stop by during normal business hours. The positions are paid but volunteer hours are included in the time worked each week. The positions begin June 1, 2004.

Jennifer Williams, wife of Staff Sgt. Chet Williams, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron, has given to the Thrift Shop on many occasions, with both donations and consignments.

"I donate here because I know families of young airmen and families in the local community may be in need. I also give for children," said Mrs. Williams. "I know I'm helping other military families."



Photo by Adriene M. Dicks

Kelly Shinn, Thrift Shop co-manager, adds new titles to the facility's selection of books.

USCENTAF, 9th Air Force get new top enlisted leader

There are many things people can get excited about when taking a new job. For Chief Master Sgt. John Foran, his excitement came from the realization he was about to play an integral role in the war-fighting mission.

As the new 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces command chief master sergeant, Chief Foran said it is thrilling to move from

being part of the force provider to being at the "tip of the spear."

"It's like being on a sports team when the coach tells you it's your turn to play," he said. "The command has some of the most professional and dedicated people serving today and I am excited to be part of that."

Chief Foran is no stranger to the duties of serving as a command chief;

he came to the 9th AF after serving as wing command chief at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. He said there are some unique challenges that come with new duties and his mission of giving the commander the most informed advice he can on the welfare of the enlisted force.

With the diversity of assets that fall under the command, the chief's

learning curve has to be steep.

"The dual-hat nature of this command makes this a challenging job," he said. "With both the stateside units and our USCENTAF responsibilities, the travel and communication issues are going to prove to be both a benefit and challenge."

As a career-long munitions maintainer, the 47-year-old Douglasville, Ga., native has always subscribed to the team concept. The team, he said, is essential to building the future of the Air Force because it is out of these teams that leaders are built.

With all the changes facing the force today, focus is a key message for the chief as he visits units both stateside and in the area of responsibility. "Our people need to keep their eyes on the immediate tasks and not get wrapped up in all the changes," he said.

"Sometimes we lose sight of what the most important task is," he said. "I

always tell people they should focus on being the best at what they are currently doing and on making themselves better through avenues such as education and training."

By focusing on their duties, airmen can help the chief focus on one of his goals, which is recognizing outstanding performers.

"Our folks do outstanding work," Chief Foran said. "By focusing

their efforts, they produce even better results and are going to be recognized for that."

Part of the chief's belief in the team-building notion also builds on his philosophy of being the best at your current duties.

"While our people should always strive to be the best they can at their current duties, change is inherent in our military life," he said. "Moves and job changes are a part of our way of life, so we should always be training our replacements. We should be ensuring the mission won't suffer because the next person who assumes your duties doesn't know what is expected."

On the same note, the chief also said people should not be afraid to embrace change.

"Change can be good and is necessary as we evolve as a force."

(Information courtesy of 9th AF Public Affairs.)

“The command has some of the most professional and dedicated people serving today and I am excited to be part of that.”

Chief Master Sgt. John Foran
USCENTAF, 9th AF command chief master sergeant



Photo by 1st Lt. Gary Arasin

Chief Foran says he's up to the challenge of being the new command chief master sergeant for USCENTAF and 9th Air Force.



Spirit Spotlight



Staff Sgt. Bruce Bohne



Organization: 20th Security Forces Squadron

Duty title: Assistant unit deployment manager

Job duties: Ensure personnel are assigned mobility positions and review and update personnel rosters

Hometown: Radcliff, Ky.

Time in service: Four years

Family: Wife, Paula and son, Caleb

Off-duty interests: Spending time with family

Words I live by: "If you want something, go after it."

2nd Lt. Daniel Koeppel



Organization: 79th Fighter Squadron

Duty title: Adjutant

Job duties: Officer in charge of the commander's support staff, resource advisor and review officer and enlisted performance reports

Hometown: Pittsburgh

Time in service: 11 years

Family: Wife, Shelli Mendel-Koeppel and two children, Brendan and Adam

Off-duty interests: Spending time with family, fishing, hunting, reading and watching videos

Words I live by: "Do or do not -- there is no try."